

Appl. No. 10/743,751
Amdt. dated February 7, 2005
Reply to Office action of October 5, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Summary of Office Action

In the Office Action, claims 2-4 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,865,410 (Horen) and claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horen in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,806,074 (Ward).

Remarks Regarding Amendments

Claims 1, 2, 3 and 4 have been amended without admission as to their patentability or prejudice to Applicant's right to seek them in a continuing application. New claims 5-14 have been added, depending on claim 1. Claims 1-14 are now pending. The Applicant submits that these amendments are supported by the original application.

Remarks Regarding Section 112 Claim Rejections

Claim 2 has been amended to remove the reference to the "adjustable pivot connection". The Applicant submits that claims 2-4, as amended are not indefinite.

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Remarks Regarding S. 103 Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 as being obvious in view of Horen and claims 1-4 as being obvious in view of Horen as combined with U.S. Pat. No. 5,865,5107 (Ward).

Claim 1 as amended states that the adjustable axial engagement mechanism is adjustable from proximate the inner end of the top member. The Applicant submits that the Office Action does not provide a *prima facie* case for the modification of Horen or combination of Horen with Ward in a manner that produces the claimed invention.

In view of all the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims presently on file are patentable over the prior art. Applicant submits that this is a complete response to the outstanding Examiner's communication and that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

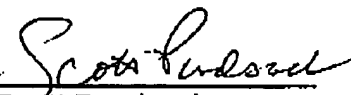
If additional fees are required, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

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